

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH November 14, 2006

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee held a meeting on this date at 7:00 p.m. in the Exeter-West Greenwich Jr. – Sr. High School Library. Members present were Susan DeSack, Chairperson; Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Frank Maher; Bill Munroe; and Bill Clay. Paul McFadden left the meeting early at 8:10 p.m. Interim Superintendent James A. DiPrete; Director of Administration Robert V. Ross; Director of Curriculum Nancy I. Daley; Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo; and Student Member Geoffrey Southworth were present.

ORDER – Chair DeSack called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Vice Chair Cicero read the District Mission Statement.

OPEN FORUM – Member Clay suggested that the newly elected School Committee members be provided with packets at the next School Committee meeting.

Community member/parent Martha Morro said that her friend requested she report to the committee that the School Committee

minutes posted on the district website are not up to date.

PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – Student Member Geoffrey Southworth reported that the senior high school has many events scheduled for this week. He gave a brief overview of the planned activities which include concerts, testing, parent/teacher conferences, and a Hunger Awareness dinner. He said that the Hunger Awareness dinner will be held on December 5th from 6 – 7:30 p.m. at a cost of \$6.00 per person. Geoffrey then said that the high school history department has scheduled a field trip to Flags of our Fathers for next week in recognition of Veterans’ Day. In response to Member Clay’s question, Geoffrey confirmed that he is unaware of any bullying occurring at the senior high school.

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA – Interim Superintendent DiPrete gave an overview of the Consent Agenda.

Member McFadden referenced consent agenda item, Personnel Items – Appointments and asked clarifying questions. In response to Member McFadden’s questions, Director of Administration Robert Ross confirmed that all paid positions are advertised and that all advertised positions do have job descriptions.

Member Clay moved to accept the consent agenda. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 7 – 0.

The following items were approved:

**A. Approval of Minutes - Regular Minutes of October 24, 2006,
Executive Session Minutes of October 24, 2006**

B. Personnel Items

**1. Appointments - (As Recommended by the Interim
Superintendent)-(No Change to Budgeted FTE's)**

**a. Hans Coker as Sr. High School Assistant Wrestling Coach,
 Stipend \$2,402.00, effective for the 2006 – 2007 season**

**b. Concetta McGuire as .67 Sr. High School Foreign Language
Teacher, Salary \$11,001.60, effective November 2, 2006**

**c. Sandra Capuano as Junior High School Student Council
co-advisor, Stipend one-half of \$1,030.00, effective for the 2006 – 2007
school year**

**d. Joan Goldstein as Junior High School Student Council co-
 advisor, Stipend one-half of \$1,030.00, effective for the 2006 –
 2007 school year**

e. *Christopher Gillette as District Senior Computer Support Technician, Salary \$27,643.20, effective on or about November 27, 2006

f. *Christopher Cadieux as District Computer Support Technician, Salary \$26,603.00, effective on or about November 14, 2006

2. Leaves of absence

3. Resignations

a. Letter of Resignation from Todd Madison as District Computer Support Technician, with regret, effective November 17, 2006

4. Grievances

C. Bills – In the amount of \$ \$249,636.99

D. Home School Approvals

End Consent Agenda

E. Correspondence – (ENCLOSED) – (1) November 7, 2006 Memo from

Interim Superintendent DiPrete Regarding Wawaloam, (2) November 7,

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2006 Memo from Interim Superintendent DiPrete Regarding the Face-

To-Face Meeting with RIDE, (3) November 7, 2006 Memo from Mr. Ross

Regarding Council 94 Teacher Assistant Positions

Member Clay referenced correspondence (2) and commented that he hopes all members read this correspondence as its topic will be costly to the district. Chair DeSack confirmed this item will be brought forward for discussion at budget time. Vice Chair Cicero recommended putting this item on the agenda for discussion at the December School Committee meeting.

NEW BUSINESS – Community Question Follow-up to Background Check Inquiry – Director of Administration Robert Ross, School Committee members, and some audience members had a lengthy discussion regarding the district's policy relating to background check requirements for volunteers serving in the district's schools. Some members of the audience expressed their opinions that the district should also require a DCYF check in addition to the currently established BCI requirement. They asked clarifying questions regarding which types of volunteers and/or vendors are required to provide a BCI report. They alleged that there is a volunteer currently serving in the district that has not provided a BCI report. Mr. Ross said that he had contacted the human resource and legal

departments at the Department of Children, Youth, and Families and they informed him that they do not and never have provided a school department with this type of a report. They also said that they are not sure that legally they can. Further, Mr. Ross said that currently the district does have policy #6405 – Screening of Potential Employees and School Volunteers in place and has set up a specific volunteer packet requirement as well. Chair DeSack recognized that the district does everything in its power to ensure the safety of students. She said that the district has clear policies regarding volunteers working with children and the district can not require everyone that steps foot in a school building to have a BCI completed. She said that she will review the volunteer list and investigate who is allegedly volunteering in the district without providing a BCI report. Mr. Ross summarized by saying that beginning September 2007 a notice will go home to parents explaining that if they wish to volunteer they must submit a completed volunteer packet and a BCI report to the central office. The central office will keep a volunteer database. Vice Chair Cicero confirmed that the PTA will be made aware that a BCI is required for parent volunteers. Chair DeSack emphasized that should audience members have concerns they wish to share regarding volunteers currently serving in the district; they should contact the district's legal team and/or the Superintendent.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Additional Health Care Payment – Chair DeSack referenced Director of Administration Robert Ross' November 7, 2006 memo and pointed out that Mr. Ross has altered

his previous proposal and is now recommending that the committee delay making an additional healthcare payment until January 2007.

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Member McFadden moved to deny appropriating any funds from the general fund for paying down any deficit with WB Community Health. Seconded by Member Munroe.

Member McFadden reiterated his recommendation, which he had expressed at the previous meeting, to defer the additional healthcare payment in order to accurately reflect the higher premium and to have the deficit negotiated in the contract. Chair DeSack reminded Member McFadden of Mr. Ross' current recommendation to delay payment until January 2007. Clerk Coutcher reported the executive director of WB Community Health is recommending the district go before WB's board in January to request spreading out the rate increase payment over a two-year period in order to ease next year's premiums. Clerk Coutcher said that the executive director also said he has never seen a school district incur such an increase and he will speak to the board on the district's behalf. If the board decides not to allow the district to spread the payment out, then this issue will need to be revisited and maybe the additional payment will need to be made after all.

Member McFadden withdrew his motion.

Convening a Sub Committee on Health Care – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported that the sub committee has been convened. Chair DeSack asked if the scheduled November 21, 2006 General Open School Committee Meeting on Health is still necessary. Consensus was to postpone the meeting to a future date.

Metcalf Fire Alarm - Update – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported that the Metcalf Fire Alarm bid was advertised, three companies have picked up the bid packet, the pre bid meeting is schedule to take place on November 20, 2006 at 3:30 p.m. at Metcalf School, the public opening will take place on November 27th, and administration will bring forward the award at the November 28, 2006 School Committee meeting. Mr. Ross gave a brief overview of the stages necessary to complete the project. He briefly discussed with members the anticipated high cost for the egress component. Mr. Ross said that the district will make a capital request at the next District Financial Meeting. Member Maher asked if administration has followed-up on the Homeland Security grant or any other grants. Chair DeSack said that this question can be answered at the next regular School Committee meeting.

Superintendent Search – Chair DeSack reported that this Saturday, November 18, 2006 the committee will be interviewing three finalist

candidates for the vacancy of Superintendent. NESDEC will be present at that meeting and Background Criminal Investigations are being completed on the finalist.

Alternate Transportation – Director of Administration Robert Ross said that he and Vice Chair Cicero attended a meeting with representatives from Laidlaw Bus Company

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and Chariho Regional School District. This meeting was a proactive attempt to initiate a possible joint ridership program; however, at this point in time it is not a feasible option. He explained that recently Senate Bill 2489 was signed by the governor which will have the general assembly look at a statewide school district transportation plan with RIPTA. Mr. Ross gave an overview of Chariho's community bus stop program used for its students attending charter and private schools. He has asked Scott Baton of Laidlaw to research this option for Exeter-West Greenwich. Additionally, Chariho has a transportation sub committee in place with three school committee members serving on it. When a decision regarding transportation is made and a parent contests the decision they must contest it with the sub committee. Chariho reports this process to be very effective in resolving its transportation issues. Vice Chair Cicero recommended adding this item to the next agenda for discussion in advance of the December meeting, at which time the committee will reorganize, in

case the committee decides it wants to establish a transportation sub committee.

REPORTS/COMMENTS –

IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – Chair DeSack confirmed the November 21, 2006 meeting is cancelled. There was a very brief discussion regarding the December 5, 2006 meeting. Consensus was to reschedule it to December 12, 2006.

November 17, 2006 – Parent/Teacher Conference Day – (No School for Students); November 21, 2006 – General Open School Committee Meeting on Health Care; November 23 & 24 – Thanksgiving Recess; November 28, 2006 – School Committee Meeting; December (5),12, 2006 – School Committee Meeting

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Chair DeSack moved to go into Executive Session at

8:10 p.m. in accordance with RIGL 42-45-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 for the purpose of discussion regarding Collective Bargaining Agreement – Council 94 – Grievance 42-46-5 (a) (9), Collective Bargaining Agreement – Grievance 42-46-5 (a) (9), and Collective Bargaining/Litigation 42-46-5 (a) (2). Seconded by Member Munroe. Voted – 7 – 0.

Member McFadden left at this time.

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 8:10 p.m.

Chair DeSack called the meeting back to order in open session in accordance with RIGL 42-46-2(b) at 10:04 p.m.

A 6 – 0 vote was taken during Executive Session to deny the grievance regarding the Fine Arts Department (grades 7-12). No other votes were taken.

ADJOURNMENT – Clerk Coutcher moved to adjourn at 10:05 p.m. Seconded by Member Maher. Voted 6 – 0. Meeting adjourned 10:05 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK